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## CRITICIZES INSUFFICIENT EXPLOITATION OF WASTE

The percentage of industrial waste re-utilized in production is not higher than 10 or 15 percent in Bulgaria, except in the cases of waste paper (27 percent) and wool waste (25 percent).

The importance of waste materials for the economy is illustrated by the fact that each kilogram of waste paper gathered represents a saving in foreign exchange of 40 leva, which would be the cost of importation. The use of 250 kilograms of waste paper means a saving of one cubic meter of first-class building lumber. Every 100 kilograms of woolen rags gathered can produce 90 kilograms of reprocessed wool, and each kilogram of woolen rags gathered saves 400 leva in foreign exchange. From 100 kilograms of scrap iron, 70 kilograms of construction iron can be obtained; from 100 kilograms of melon seeds, 32 kilograms of excellent vegetable oil can be derived, etc.

Some successes have been registered in collecting waste materials, mainly because it has been made compulsory to turn in discarded goods when obtaining new woolen goods and certain rubber products, and also because of the gathering of scrap iron from the metalworking factories. As far as acrap iron and rubber waste are concerned, the "Otpadutsi" (Waste) State Commercial Enterprise has gathered larger quantities of waste materials than can be reprocessed by Bulgarian factories. For that reason this enterprise has begun to reduce its purchase of these waste materials.

For the "Otpadutsi" enterprise to function properly, it is necessary to eliminate this weakness in its activity. In Bulgarian factories there are enormous quantities of waste material which are not being utilized. In Plant No 11, there are whole mountains of rusted iron shavings which have already lost their value. In the locomotive plant at Sofia and in many other places waste materials lie scattered about in the yards, rotting or rusting and losing their value. Stacks of waste paper are burned in schools and business enterprises, and enormous quantities of articles of value to the national economy are going to waste in private households.

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To put an end to this deplorable situation, a number of organizational and economic measures must be adopted. First, it is imperative that the enterprises and institutions which should buy up the iron, rubber, and glass waste materials gathered by the "Otpadutsi" Enterprise purchase the stocks now accumulated and remove them from the warehouses. This will free its working capital and enable the enterprise to pursue a new, vigorous purchase campaign.

Second, the "Otpadutsi" Enterprise must reorganize and introduce modern methods in its work. At present, it has its own warehouse in each okoliya center and one, two, or three employees to take care of the entire okoliya. At Sofia there are 12 warehouses open in the first and third rayons but none at all in the others. The warehouses have a staff of 27 office employees and 50 workers who sort the waste materials, but the only means of transportation for the whole enterprise is one cart.

It is quite obvious that with this staff and "his single cart the "Otpadutsi" Enterprise cannot conduct extensive activity on its own but must wait for waste materials to be brought to its warehouses. The commissions of 2 to 10 leva per kilogram which are paid to the waste collectors are not attractive enough to recruit a permanent group of them.

Therefore, it is imperative that the obligatory deliveries of woolen rags be abolished and that there be a gradual shifting to free socialist trade where the buyers have no obligations. Consequently, the "Otpadutsi" Enterprise must thoroughly reorganize its work.

Above all, the buying up of waste materials must be organized according to a realistic plan. Waste materials which deteriorate when left unused (metal shavings and the like) must be speedily utilized in industry or exported. Adequate personnel should be appointed to enlighten the population regarding waste, and to supervise transactions involving the purchase and storage of waste materials. Public cooperation should be secured in turning in bones, glass, fruit stones and seeds, woolen rags, rubber articles, etc., found in abundance in households.

The most effective way to gather these waste materials is through the janitors of the cooperative apartment houses in the large cities or through individual citizens willing to do the job in towns with small private homes. The main conditions for the successful accomplishment of this work, however, is that the enterprise be able to go to the janitors and collectors with its own transportation facilities and not have to wait for them to carry the waste materials to its warehouses on their backs.

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